

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01775 061625Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 AF-10 /033 W
-----085594 070147Z /66
R 061704Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0617

UNCLAS DUBLIN 01775

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH INDEPENDENT JUNE 6, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT
JUNE 6, 1978 UNDER HEADING SAVING AFRICA:

THE ATTEMPT BEING MADE BY EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES
TO SET UP SOME KIND OF "FIRE-BRIGADE" TO COPE WITH
AFRICA'S PROBLEMS IS NOW UNDER WAY, TO THE BACK-
GROUND OF A CHORUS OF ANGUISHED HOWLS FROM THE
SOVIET UNION. IT SEEMS THAT WHILE IT IS ALL RIGHT
FOR RUSSIA, CUBA AND THE EAST GERMANS TO INTERVENE
ALL OVER AFRICA, SINCE THE PURITY OF THEIR MOTIVES
CANNOT BE IMPUGNED, IT IS SHEER NEO-COLONIALISM FOR
THE WEST TO DO THE SAME THING.

FOR SUCH A CHORUS TO BE SUNG BY THE SOVIET UNION, THE
LAST OF THE GREAT IMPERIALIST POWERS AND A COLONISER
OF GREAT ENERGY IN THE PAST AND PRESENT, IS SHEER
HYPOCRISY, AND DOES NOTHING MORE THAN CONFIRM THE
EXISTENCE OF DOUBLE STANDARDS SHE OPERATES. FROM
LITHUANIANS TO CRIMEAN TATARS, THERE ARE MORE
SUBJUGATED NATIONALITES IN THE SOVIET UNION THAN
ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

THE PRESENT WESTERN PLAN HAS BEEN SPARKED OFF BY THE
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CONTINUED SUCCESS OF RUSSIAN-BACKED CUBANS IN FOMENTING
AND HELPING MARXIST GROUPINGS IN AFRICA, AND IN THAT
SENSE THE RUSSIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE
WEST INVOLVED AGAIN.

THE WEST PLANS TO SEND AID, SUPPORT AN AFRICAN-
MANNED ARMY AND SUPPLY U.S. AND EUROPEAN TRANSPORT

PLANES TO AIRLIFT TROOPS AND SUPPLIES INTO
AFFECTED AREAS.

THE IMMEDIATE REASON FOR THIS ACTIVITY IS OF COURSE
WHAT HAPPENED IN SHABA PROVINCE, BUT IT IS FEARED
THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT
WHICH COULD BE AFFECTED TOO. AND IT IS IMPORTANT
FOR THE WEST TO GET IN BEFORE THE CHINESE, WHO
ARE NOW IN ZAIRE, BEGIN TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLE
AGAIN IN AFRICA.

IT IS A GREAT PITY THAT ALL THIS EFFORT IS NOT BEING
DIRECTED TOWARDS COUNTRIES WHICH COULD PROVE THAT
THEY ARE OPERATING SYSTEMS WHICH REPRESENT THE VOICE
OF THE PEOPLE. BUT WHETHER MARXIST OR NON-MARXIST
IT IS A PLAIN FACT, THERE FOR ALL TO SEE, THAT
THERE ARE FEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE A
SYSTEM APPROACHING ANYTHING LIKE OUR CONCEPT OF
DEMONRACY. FOR SOME OF THEM INDEPENDENCE HAS
MERELY MEANT THE SUBSTITUTION OF ONE SET OF
MASTERS FOR ANOTHER.

AFTER YEARS OF OPERATING A HANDS-OFF POLICY THE
WEST HAS SUDDENLY AWOKEN TO THE FACT THAT THE
RUSSIANS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN FISHING VERY
SUCCESSFULLY IN TROUBLED WATERS. NOW THEY HAVE
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COMPETITORS. KRENE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TEXT, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN01775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0065
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780693/aaaadbuu.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1196e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2480887
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH INDEPENDENT JUNE 6, 1978 FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT JUNE 6, 1978 UNDER HEADING SAVING AFRICA
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, EI, XA, UR, CU
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1196e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014